

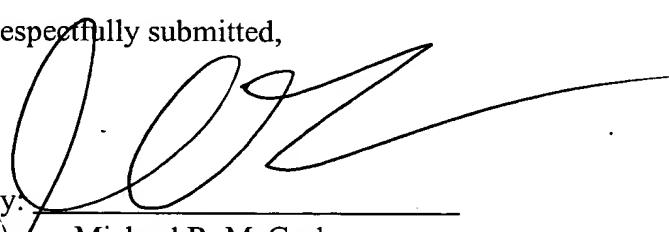
Allowance of the claims and declaration of an Interference between the instant application and Bonniface et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,672,786 is earnestly solicited.

Further, the requested Interference should be declared with a count that is identical to claim 1 of this application and claim 1 of the Bonniface patent. Since both claims are identical or substantially identical, only one count is required. All claims from the Bonniface patent should be designated as corresponding to the count. And claims 1-9 from the instant application should be designated as corresponding to the count. Finally, applicants attach hereto a proposed "Interference Initial Memorandum" for the Examiner's convenience.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Preliminary Amendment and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-916.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

  
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Date: 2/10/99

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Enclosures:

- Declaration Under 37 CFR § 1.131
- Terminal Disclaimer
- Interference Initial Memorandum